

T-733

c. 1850

Nathan Harrington House  
St. Michaels  
Private

St. Michaels tradition relates that this was the house of Nathan Harrington, a member of a prominent Talbot County family. Since Nathan Harrington, Sr. as well as his son, Nathan, Jr., speculated in St. Michaels land and lot development during the early nineteenth century it is uncertain who actually built this house. The principal Harrington family residence was "Hatton's Garden" located south of town, so it is likely this was Nathan, Jr.'s residence. The heirs of Ann M. Harrington sold the house and lot in 1879 to Denny Williams for \$600 which indicates the dwelling was on the lot at that time. From the transfer in 1879, the property remained in Williams family hands until 1956.

The Harrington house is one of a small collection of story-and-a-half frame houses that survives from the first half of the nineteenth century. This example is different from the others with the gable-front elevation oriented to face Grace Street. Exterior period details include the front door, six-over-six sash windows, and gabled dormers on the east and west roof slopes. This structure is one of the few antebellum dwellings on Grace Street.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-733

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic NATHAN HARRINGTON HOUSE

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number <sup>103</sup>~~105~~ Grace Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town St. Michaels ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street &amp; number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber 333

street &amp; number Talbot County Courthouse folio 411

city, town Easton state MD 21601

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

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### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Nathan Harrington, Jr. house stands at 105 Grace Street in the center of St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half frame dwelling faces south with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1850, the asbestos shingled gable-front dwelling is supported by a minimal brick foundation, and it is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Attached to the back of the mid nineteenth century dwelling is a mid twentieth century addition that continues the same roof line as the main block.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center six-panel door and flanking six-over-six sash windows hung with louvered shutters. Piercing the upper gable to light the second floor are two six-over-six sash windows that retain louvered shutters as well. The eave to the roof is finished with a simply molded bargeboard.

The east and west sides of the mid nineteenth century front section are marked by a single six-over-six sash window on the first floor and a six-over-six sash gable dormer pierces the roof to light the second floor. A patch in the asphalt roof shingles indicates the former location of the chimney. The rear wing follows the same roof line as the front block, but varying details such as shed roof dormers distinguish this addition. A single flue block stack rises against the north gable end.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. T-733

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Nathan Harrington, Jr. house is one of a small collection of story-and-a-half frame houses that survives from the first half of the nineteenth century. This example is different from the others with a gable-front elevation oriented to face Grace Street. Exterior period details include the front door, six-over-six sash windows, and gabled dormers on the ~~east~~ <sup>east</sup> ~~and west~~ roof slopes. This structure is one of the few antebellum dwellings on Grace Street.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Local St. Michaels tradition relates that this was the house of Nathan Harrington, a member of a prominent Talbot County family. Since Nathan Harrington, Sr. as well as his son, Nathan, Jr., speculated in St. Michaels land and lot development during the early nineteenth century it is uncertain who actually built this house. The principal Harrington family residence was "Hatton's Garden" south of town, so it is likely this may have been Nathan, Jr.'s residence. The heirs of Ann M. Harrington sold the house and lot in 1879 to Denny Williams for \$600 which indicates the dwelling was on the site at that time.(88/139) From the transfer in 1879, the property remained in Williams family hands until 1956.(333/411)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-733

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 2/3/90

street &amp; number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

YEAR: 1956 VOL: 333 PAGE: 411

FROM: Denny Williams and June F. Williams (Washington, D. C.)

TO : Charles W. Messick and Alice T. Messick

NOTES: On N side of Grace St. Fronting 51 1/2 feet; running back 154 1/2 feet; 53 1/2 feet across; 154 1/2 feet more or less to beginning.

Conveyed to Williams by Reddie 1949, 282/25 (clearance)

Conveyed to Reddie by Williams 1949, 282/24 (clearance)

Conveyed to Williams by Henry 1938, 241/127.

The property had apparently been in the hands of the Williams family since 1879.

YEAR: 1938 VOL: 241 PAGE: 127

FROM: T. Hughlett Henry and Charles J. Butler, trustees

TO : Anna Ruth Williams

NOTES: Sale made by decree of the Circuit Court in suit Virginia Duncan vs Ruth S. Williams for the estate of Denny Williams. First sold to Clinton Messix; Clinton defaulted; in 1937, sold to Anna Ruth Williams for \$300. Same description.

Conveyed to Denny Williams, dcd. by John T. Harrington, et al 1871/88/139.

YEAR: 1879 VOL: 88 PAGE: 139

FROM: John T. Harrington, Wm. W. Harrington, and Nannie B. Harrington

TO : Denny Williams

NOTES: \$600. Same description. These are heirs of Ann M. Harrington.

Conveyed to Nannie B. Harrington by will of Ann M. Harrington.

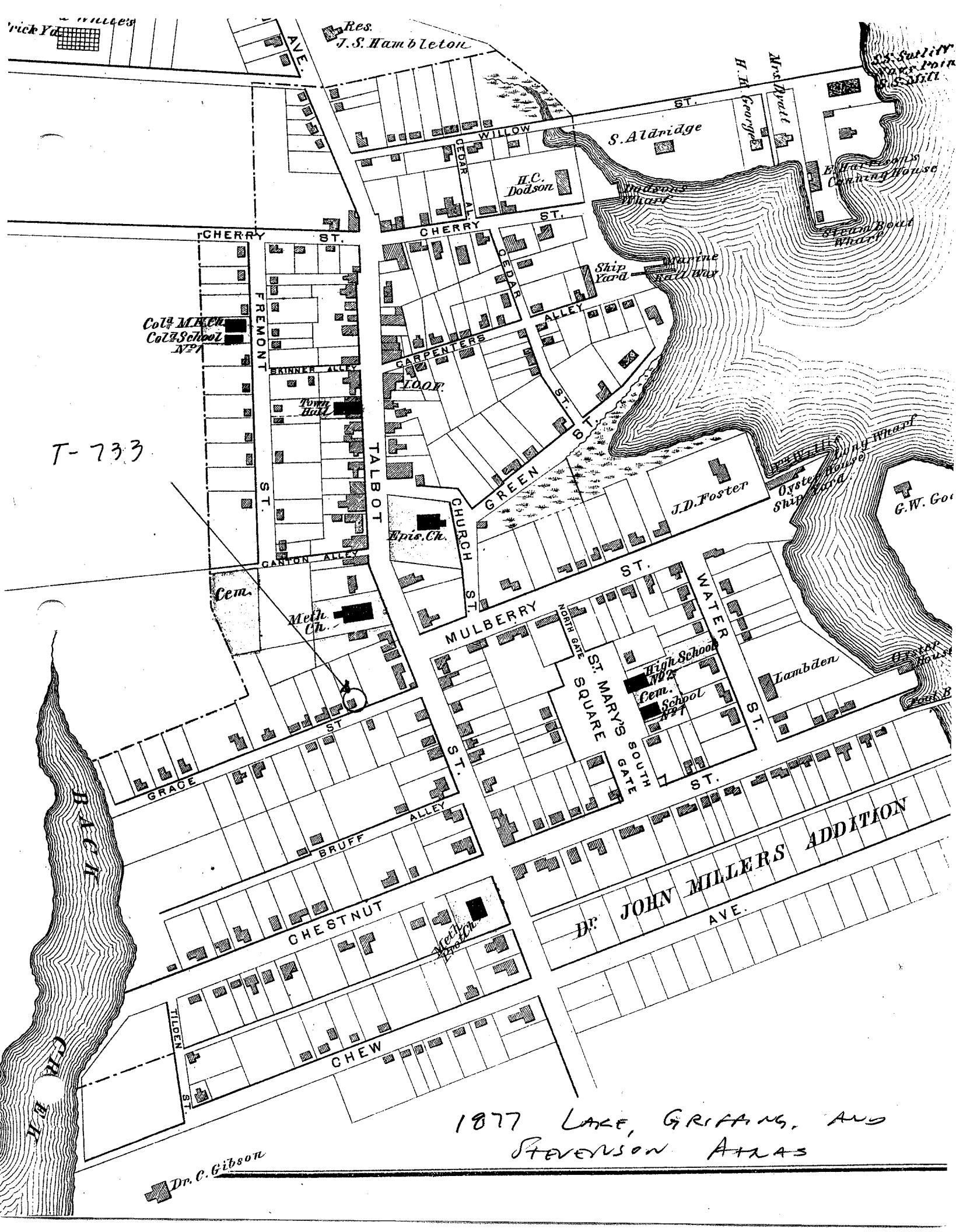
The will of Ann M. Harrington was not found at the Talbot County Courthouse.

Earlier transfers of this property were not found. It was part of the land John Bruff bought from James Braddock (1781, 21/223; 1790, 24/52).

Nathan Harrington, Sr. and Nathan Harrington, Jr. both engaged in land speculation. Their deeds in the area of Grace Street (which they referred-to as "Lowe's Street") are not very definite as to metes and bounds.

Nathan Harrington, Sr. married Ann Bruff, daughter of John Bruff. Nathan Jr. married his cousin, Sallie Ann, daughter of Thomas Bruff.

Tradition makes this the house of Nathan Harrington. Since the principle seat of the Harringtons was at "Hatton's Garden", south of the town, I would take it that the Nathan in this house was "Junior".



T-733

1877 LAKE, GRIFFING, AND  
STEVENSON ATLAS



T-733  
NATHAN HARRINGTON HOUSE  
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle  
1942





T-733

NATHAN HARRINGTON HOUSE

Southeast elevation

St. Michaels, Talbot County, MD

11/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/Md Historical Trust